CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A processing system~~,~~ comprising~~:~~

a processing apparatus~~;~~ and

a processing agent, the processing agent being a substance which is administrable to a ~~biological~~ subject <u>chosen from a plant and an animal</u> and having in relation thereto a primary behaviour effective in combination with said processing apparatus to achieve a desired process result,

 wherein the processing agent further has a distinctive signature characteristic distinguishing it from other processing agents, and

 wherein the processing system comprises test functionality to test for the distinctive signature characteristic of the processing agent and to selectively modify subsequent operation of the processing apparatus based on a test result~~;~~

 <u>wherein the test functionality is effective to disable, at least partially, subsequent operation of the processing apparatus in the absence of said distinctive signature characteristic.</u>

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) A processing system according to claim1 wherein the test functionality is effective to disable, at least partially, output of the process result in the absence of said distinctive signature characteristic.

4. (Original) A processing system according to claim 1 wherein the processing agent comprises a first component for providing said primary behaviour and a second component having said distinctive signature characteristic.

5. (Currently Amended) A processing system according to claim 1 wherein the distinctive signature characteristic is in the behaviour of the processing agent in the ~~biological~~ subject <u>wherein the subject is a human subject.</u>

6. (Previously Presented) A processing system according to claim 5 wherein the distinctive signature characteristic is in the time-dependent behaviour of the processing agent in the biological subject.

7.   (Previously Presented)   A processing system according to claim 5 wherein the distinctive signature characteristic is in the spatially-dependent behaviour of the processing agent in the biological subject.

8.   (Original)   A processing system according to claim 1 wherein the distinctive signature characteristic is a property of the processing agent detectable by the processing apparatus.

9.   (Previously Presented)   A processing system according to claim 1 wherein the processing apparatus comprises an analysis apparatus, the processing agent comprises an analysis agent, the analysis agent being administrable to the biological subject and having in relation thereto a primary behaviour effective to reveal upon analysis by the analysis apparatus a condition of the biological subject as said process result.

10.   (Original)   An analysis system according to claim 9 wherein the distinctive signature characteristic is a property of the processing agent detectable by the analysis apparatus on analysis of the primary behaviour of the analysis agent.

11.   (Original)   An analysis system according to claim 9 wherein the analysis apparatus is a medical imaging apparatus and the analysis agent comprises a contrast agent.

12.   (Original)   An analysis system according to claim 11 wherein the analysis agent comprises two radio isotopes of different decay characteristics to provide said distinctive signature characteristic.

13.   (Original)   An analysis system according to claim 11 wherein the analysis agent comprises a component emitting photons of a particular energy to provide said distinctive signature characteristic.

14.   (Original)   An analysis system according to claim 11 wherein the distinctive signature characteristic is the magnetic resonance spectrum of the contrast agent.

15.   (Original)   An analysis system according to claim 11 wherein the analysis agent comprises the contrast agent and a further component having a distinctive magnetic resonance spectrum to provide said distinctive signature characteristic.

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16.   (Previously Presented)   A processing system according to claim 1 wherein the biological subject is a human being, plant or animal.

17.   (Original)   A processing system according to claim 1 wherein the processing subject is *in vitro*.

18.   (Original)   A computer program comprising program code means for providing on a programmed data processor test functionality for use in a processing system in accordance with claim 1.

19.   (Original)   A computer program according to claim 18 further comprising program code means for controlling said processing apparatus to achieve said desired process result.

20.   (Previously Presented)   A processing agent for use in a processing system in accordance with claim 1 and having in relation to a predetermined biological subject a primary behaviour effective in combination with said processing apparatus to achieve a desired process result, and further having a distinctive signature characteristic distinguishing it from other processing agents and distinguishable by said test functionality.